

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A photodetector comprising:
 - a monitoring photodetection element for detecting luminous energy from the output of more than one laser light source with each laser light source providing a laser beam of luminous energy at a different wavelength spectrum;
 - a light-source discriminating photoreceiver for discriminating between wavelength spectra of the different light sources for providing an output distinct to each wavelength spectra; and
 - a sensitivity regulation circuit for regulating the sensitivity of said monitoring photodetection element with respect to said light sources in response to the output from said light source - discriminating photoreceiver.
2. The photodetector of Claim 1 wherein said light source - discriminating photoreceiver outputs different values for different spectra of incident light.
3. The photodetector of Claim 2 wherein said light source - discriminating photoreceiver comprises:
 - a discriminating photodetection element; and
 - a filter having a different transmittance for the different wavelength spectra of each laser beam;wherein said filter is arranged at the incoming end of said discriminating photodetection element.
4. The photodetector of claim 2, wherein said sensitivity regulation circuit switches the sensitivity of said monitoring photodetection element according to the output value of said light source - discriminating photoreceiver.

5. The photodetector of Claim 3, wherein said sensitivity regulation circuit switches the sensitivity of said monitoring photodetection element according to the output value of said light source - discriminating photoreceiver.

6. The photodetector of Claim 1, wherein said monitoring photodetection element and said sensitivity regulation circuits are located on a common printed circuit board.

7. The photodetector of Claim 6, wherein said photoreceiver is mounted on said printed circuit board.

8. The photodetector of Claim 1, wherein said monitoring photodetection element and said light source - discriminating photoreceiver are arranged in such a way that the laser beam from each of said different laser light sources are directed along a common optical path with said light source discriminating photoreceiver being arranged in proximity to said common optical path for detection of each wavelength spectra of each laser beam.

9. An optical pickup device for use in an optical system having different laser light sources for generating laser beams of different wavelengths to be irradiated onto an optical disk to read and/or write data thereon;

said optical pickup device further comprising:

a monitoring photodetection element for detecting luminous energy from each of said laser beams;

a light source - discriminating photoreceiver for discriminating between the wavelength spectra of each of said laser light sources for providing an output distinct to each wavelength spectra; and

a sensitivity regulation circuit for regulating sensitivity of said monitoring photodetection element with respect to said light sources in response to the output of said light source - discriminating photoreceiver.

10. The photodetector of Claim 1, wherein the detection fields of said monitoring photodetection element and said photoreceiver are arranged adjacent to each other.